OBJECTIVE 1.2-PROVIDE FOR CLEAN AND SAFE WATER:

Ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and, in partnership with the states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities.

I AM NOT SURE WHAT MESSAGE THIS IS TRYING TO DELIVER. IT SEEMS TO BE LACKING SOMETHING TO ME. PERHAPS IT NEES TO SHOW HOW MUCH MONEY WE GET SO AS TO COMPARE TO NEED?

State and Tribal Water Infrastructure Needs

EPA conducts an assessment of infrastructure needs to support the CWA and SDWA Revolving Loan Funds. These estimates are updated regularly on a four-year cycle. The most recent Report to Congress 2012 for CWA and 2011 for SDWA indicate the following. (Needs are shown in millions of US dollars.)

STATE	CWA	SDWA
Arkansas	$715	$6,098
New Mexico	$320	$1,165
Louisiana	$4,462	$5,323
Oklahoma	$2,410	$6,494
Texas	$11,830	$33,892

Region 6 currently works with three Indian Health Service (IHS) offices to implement allocated SRF tribal set-aside funding. Clean Water and Drinking Water total needs in 2016 (numbers are US dollars in millions) are totaled for the IHS offices. Albuquerque's IHS office total need was $156, which includes tribes in New Mexico and Colorado. Oklahoma's IHS office total need was $113, which includes tribes in Oklahoma and Kansas. Nashville's IHS office total need was $176, which includes tribes in Texas, Louisiana and 26 other states.

RESTORE Council

USDA had been serving as Chair since March 2016, but stepped down in late September, 2017. The Act requires the States to select a Chair from the Federal members of the Council. The states interviewed both Ken Wagner, Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator for Regional and State Affairs, and DOI representatives and expect to vote on a new Chair for the Council on November 29. EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program provides key leadership to the Council's Steering Committee and workgroups, and is implementing projects across the Gulf Coast region.

Spurred by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) was signed into law on July 6, 2012. The RESTORE Act calls for a regional approach to restoring the long-term health of the valuable natural ecosystem and economy of the Gulf Coast region. The RESTORE Act dedicates 80

percent ($5.5B) of civil and administrative penalties paid under the Clean Water Act, after the date of enactment, by responsible parties in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund for ecosystem restoration, economic recovery, and tourism promotion in the Gulf Coast region. This effort is in addition to the restoration of natural resources injured by the spill that is being accomplished through a separate Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) under the Oil Pollution Act. A third and related Gulf restoration effort is being administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation using funds from the settlement of criminal charges against BP and Transocean Deepwater, Inc.

In addition to creating the Trust Fund, the RESTORE Act established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council). The Council includes the Governors of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, the Army, Commerce, Homeland Security, and the Interior, and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Council is leading projects valued at $8.8M to work with local stakeholder groups to achieve near-term, on-the-ground ecosystem and economic benefits, while also conducting planning activities designed to build a foundation for future success.

The April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was the largest oil spill in U.S. history. In 2016 the United States (including EPA), the five Gulf States, and BP entered into a $20 billion Consent Decree resolving claims for federal civil penalties and natural resource damages related to the spill.

In April 2016 EPA and the other Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees (NRDA) published a Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and work has begun on several tiered restoration plans to restore wildlife and habitat and increase recreational opportunities.

Under the Consent Decree, BP must pay up to $8.8 billion in natural resource damages. The NRDA-designated federal trustees – NOAA, DOI, EPA, and USDA – and the five Gulf state trustees are jointly responsible for these funds and will use them to restore natural resources injured in the spill. EPA provides necessary and valuable expertise in water quality, nonpoint source nutrient and stormwater pollution, and wetlands. The NRDA restoration work is expected to last 15-20 years.

The EPA Office of Water has been leading NRDA work and coordinates with the Gulf of Mexico Program and Regions 4 and 6. The current allocation for EPA NRDA efforts over the next year is approximately $1 million. Work is carefully tracked, charged, and subject to independent audits

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program

Unresolved costs for a federal grant has prevented the University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation from receiving Fiscal Year 2017 funding to administer the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program.

A 2016 internal audit found that EPA failed to administer certain amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for grants awarded to the University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation resulting in over $410,000 in unresolved costs.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act of 2000 has been authorized by Congress under an amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The program has helped to restore the ecological health of the basin by developing and funding restoration projects and related scientific and

public education projects. The University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation (UNORTF) has received federal grant to administer the program and award sub-grants to the 16 parishes surrounding the basin for restoration projects and studies. As a part of an effort strengthening grant programs oversight, an internal review of the program by the Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) and Region 6 in 2016 revealed that an amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in 2011 (enacted December 2012) increased the statutory match for the PRP from 5% to 25%, which created a match deficit totaling $410,960 for FY13 and FY15 grants. The review also found that Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program uses a 4% "Management Fee" to recover costs for its administration of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program.

EPA and the University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation have been reconciling documentation to account for any unreported match for Fiscal Years 2007-15 to help reduce or close the match deficit. EPA is unable to waive match required by statute.

EPA and the University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation are compiling the necessary documentation to justify the indirect cost rate it uses for its 4% management fee. Until the EPA can determine the nature of these costs and properly budget them in the grant agreement, EPA has restricted University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation ability to receive payment for the management fee.

Urban Waters Small Grant Program

On September 27, 2017, two sets of EPA employees won 2017 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, better known as the "Sammies," for their work on the Volkswagen settlement and revitalizing urban waters. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership got the most votes from the public in the People's Choice category for their work on creating public-private partnerships to clean up urban waterways and surrounding lands, which will help spur economic development and revitalize communities. The partnership includes over 100 innovative leaders across EPA's program and regional offices as well as the departments of Agriculture, Interior, Housing and Urban Development and 10 other federal agencies. Since July, people cast more than 50,000 votes in this category. Out of 430 nominees and after several rounds of voting, the Urban Waters Team was chosen by popular vote for making "the most admirable contribution to the American people.

The Urban Waters Program began in 2011 and the first of six community pilot locations included New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain's "Groundwork New Orleans" project. New Orleans used its $59,824 Urban Waters grant to help transform vacant, underutilized land into an educational demonstration project called The Green Slice, based in the Lower Ninth Ward. The project was designed as a demonstration and interdisciplinary research site for water management and water quality improvement, impacting local urban watersheds and developing tools for experiential learning and neighborhood-based outreach. Healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, social and employment opportunities in nearby communities.

In 2016 EPA awarded Amigos Bravos/ Albuquerque, New Mexico $55,508 towards the "Empowering Under-Served Communities and Improving Water Quality with GI/LID [green infrastructure/ low-impact development] in Albuquerque's South Valley" project. Amigos Bravos held discussions with local officials and com- munity leaders on green infrastructure priorities for South Valley, an economically distressed area that suffers from chronic flooding due to poor stormwater management. Amigos Bravos held four

workshops followed by design charrettes in South Valley neighborhoods, and based on these activities, Amigos Bravos will work with agencies and community leaders to develop an action plan for improving stormwater management in South Valley.

The Sammies are awarded annually by the Partnership for Public Service. They are designed to highlight excellence in our federal workforce and inspire other talented and dedicated individuals to go into public service.

Corpus Christi Sanitary Sewer Overflows

The Region referred enforcement case to the U.S. Department of Justice in August 2011 to address unauthorized sanitary sewer overflows and effluent discharges in violation of the Clean Water Act and the case is still pending.

The EPA, Department of Justice, and the State of Texas have been near a settlement with the City of Corpus Christi on several occasions but local elections and changes in city management have often delayed progress. On August 21, 2017, the Department of Justice notified the City of its intention to filing the case in court at the end of September. As a result of Hurricane Harvey making landfall on August 26 near Corpus Christi as a category 4 hurricane, the Department of Justice, EPA and the City of Corpus Christi agreed to suspend the deadline for the conclusion of negotiations previously set for the end of September 2017.

The current settlement has the City paying a civil penalty of $1 million that will be split between state of Texas and the United States, along with a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) valued at $600,000. The corrective measures will cost more than $632 million over the next 10 years and $885 million over the next 30 years.

Corpus Christi owns and operates six wastewater treatment plants. Performance and operating assessments of the wastewater treatment plants indicate 120 effluent violations since 2007 from its plants. The City repeatedly violated effluent limits set forth in its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for flow, enterococci, fecal coliform, total suspended solids, biological oxygen demand, ammonia, nitrogen, residual chlorine and pH. The causes of violations include: (1) untreated discharges of sewage from the waste water collection system, (2) failure to comply with operation and maintenance conditions contained in its permits due to discharges, (3) exceedances of effluent limits contained in permits due to discharges, (4) discharges of untreated wastewater into waters of the United States and State waters without a permit, and (5) creating an imminent risk of harm to human health and the environment by causing dangerously high levels of bacteria in recreational waters located in and around the City.

Houston Sanitary Sewer Overflows

On August 7, 2017, the City of Houston submitted a settlement proposal in which it substantially changed the terms of the previously agreed draft consent decree with the Department of Justice and EPA.

The parties had reached a tentative agreement in principle in which Houston will pay a penalty of $4.4 million that will be split between the State of Texas and the United States and the City will conduct a federal Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) valued at $1.5 million. Houston has agreed to

corrective action of its sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plants that will likely cost more than $5 billion over a period of 22 to 27 years. However, the Parties had not agreed to all of the consent decree language, and a small number of language issues remained.

As a result of Hurricane Harvey making landfall on August 26 as a category 4 hurricane and dropping over 50 inches of rain over Houston, the Department of Justice and EPA agreed to be flexible in working with the City of Houston and the state in resuming and completing the on-going settlement discussions.

Performance evaluation in 2009 of Houston's Sanitary Sewer Overflows indicated that Houston has the most extensive Sanitary Sewer Overflow problem in Region 6. In a five-year period, EPA identified more than 18,000 Sanitary Sewer Overflows. The City of Houston owns and operates 40 wastewater treatment plants and is the second largest municipality in the United States with a separate sewer system. The EPA referred the case to the Department of Justice in

Houston has a significantly greater number of Sanitary Sewer Overflows than other large municipalities across the country. In addition to the Sanitary Sewer Overflows, the performance evaluation of the wastewater treatment plants also indicated a large number of effluent violations from many of the Houston WWTPs. As a result, the Region referred the case to the U.S. Department of Justice in January of 2009 to address the Sanitary Sewer Overflow and effluent violations of the Clean Water Act.

The State of Texas is represented by the Texas Attorney General's Office and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. Texas has been actively involved in the negotiations; however, there are some consent decree issues that have not been resolved related to State issued permits for two wet weather facilities. These issues are being negotiated and are near resolution.